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Over de diagnostische beteekenis van de goudsolreactie van LANGE

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SUMMARY.

1. The only difficulty in the performance of the colloidal gold-reaction (GR) of LANGE is the preparation of the colloidal gold solution; with some perseverance this difficulty is always to be overcome and at any rate it need not hinder the introduction of the GR in the routine-examination of the cerebrospinal fluid.

2. Some precautions must be observed and a „biological control“ of every goldsol is necessary.

3. A final theoretical explanation of the reaction has not been given as yet, nor is it known with certainty what alterations of the liquor cause the positive reaction and even less what alterations cause the different types of curves that can be observed; no more is it known how it is that sometimes the reaction proves to be negative with fluids that are undoubtedly pathologically changed.

4. On the other hand it is sure, that the reaction is of high diagnostic value in psychiatry as well as in neurology.

5. Especially a positive GR (provided that it has been obtained with a properly controlled goldsol) proves with certainty that the cerebrospinal fluid has been pathologically altered.

6. A negative GR does not prove, that the fluid is normal and even less that there is no affection of the nervous system; as a positive GR, however, is not seldom the only alteration that can be discovered in the examination of a fluid of which it is plausible that it may be pathologically altered, nevertheless the GR must be considered the reaction that points out most exactly even the slightest alterations of the fluid.

7. That does not alter the fact, that the GR does not make the further examination of the fluid superfluous; particularly for it is altogether out of the question that the GR should be able to substitute the serological reactions for syphilis; on the contrary, the result of the GR should always be estimated in connection with all the data of the examination of the fluid.

8. Although the greatest value of the GR is in the positive result in itself, the different types of curves to be obtained also have a definite value, though this is more limited; this value can be estimated only in connection with the whole of the data of the history, the clinical findings and the examination of the cerebrospinal fluid, since specifi-

city of the different types for certain illnesses is out of the question.

9. Though it is essentially wrong to make a diagnosis merely on account of the type of the curve, it must be admitted that in those cases, in which the differential-diagnosis is difficult, the type of curve can give important hints and even that cases may be found in which the type is of decisive importance.

10. On account of these considerations it may be settled, that an examination of the cerebrospinal fluid, without the GR being performed, must be considered incomplete, and as the differential-diagnosis between functional and organic diseases of the nervous system (in psychiatry as well as in neurology) is impossible without a complete examination of the fluid, the GR should be performed as a routine-examination of the cerebrospinal fluid.